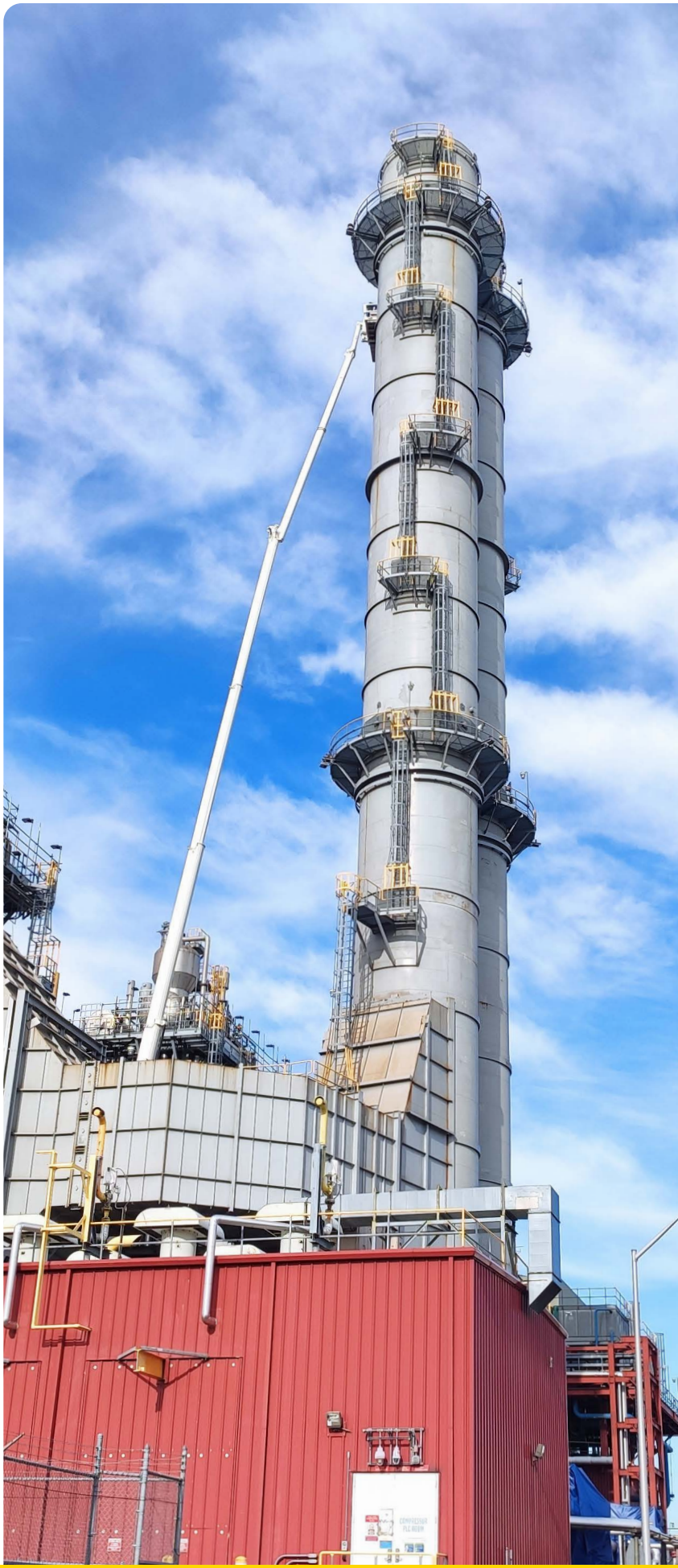
ALPHA PLATFORMS

WE LIFT YOU ABOVE ALL

HOW TO INSPECT AND REPAIR TWO 240-FOOT SMOKESTACKS DURING A BLUSTERY FALL IN JUST 10 DAYS



www.alphaplatforms.com

To help feed the Big Apple with electricity, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) operates the 500-MW Astoria combined-cycle plant overlooking the East River in New York. The plant features twin 240-foot-tall stacks that are visible from Manhattan and other boroughs.

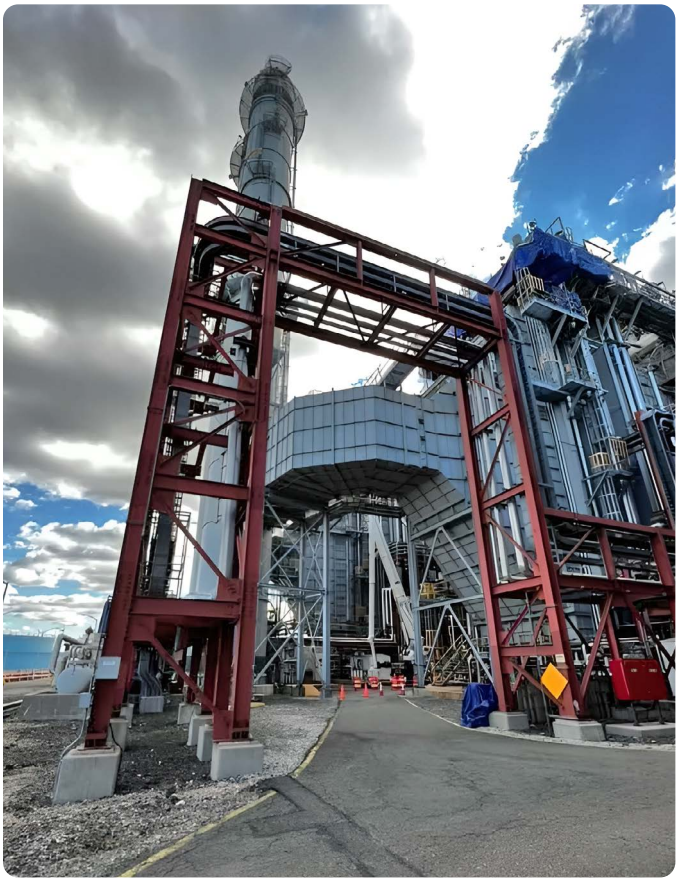
The power plant is located in Queens, where land is at a premium. Its footprint is compact at just seven acres with a very narrow gate. Pipes and gas storage tanks surround the tight alley between the structures.

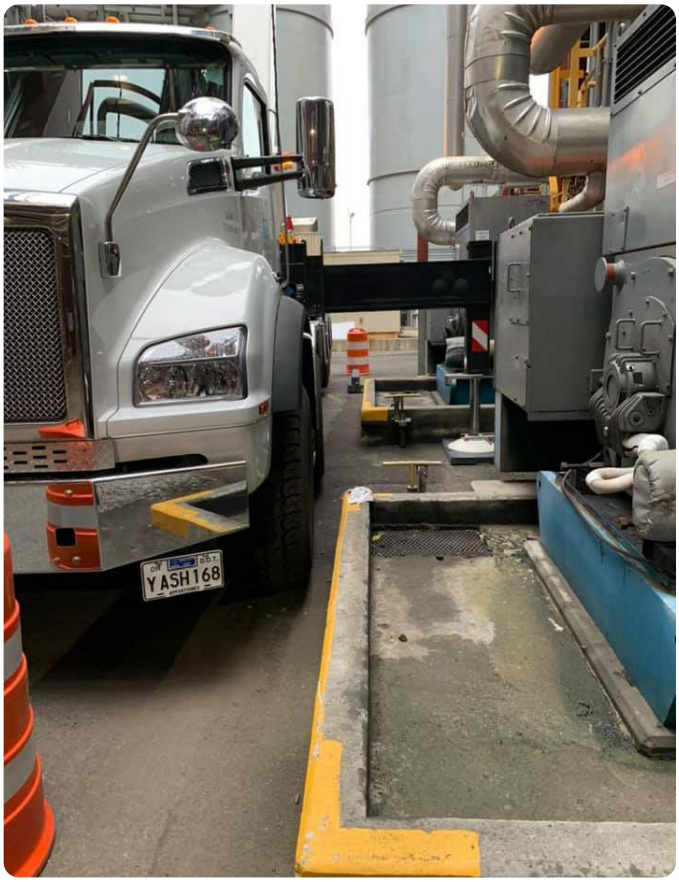
THE CHALLENGE

It was widely assumed that a boom truck could not get in nor operate in this constricted space. The plant area is so small that even the stacks were built together with a tiny gap between them to save space.

Geographically, the plant sits in the open plain next to the East River and Harlem River, exposed to gusty winds. A boom swaying in the wind could damage the smokestacks, piping, and threaten the working crew's safety. JLG lifts are not capable of a 250-foot reach.

The NYPA Astoria engaged Alpha Platforms for a 10-day project, including inspection, maintenance, and repairs – such as welding – of its two smokestacks.





THE SOLUTION

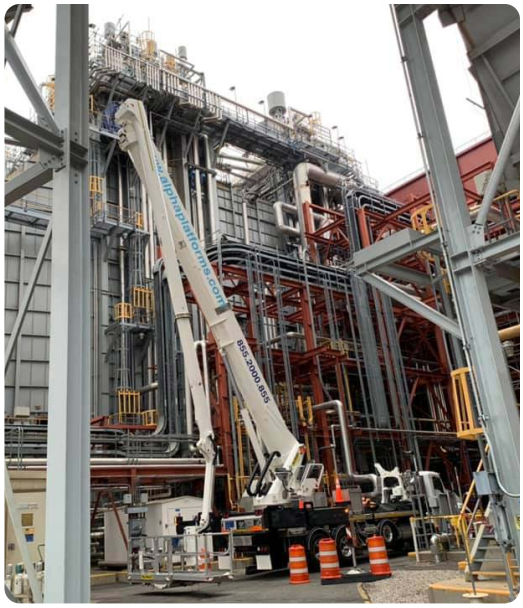
In order to reach the top and maneuver around the smokestacks, Alpha Platforms dispatched its **A-250** boom lift.

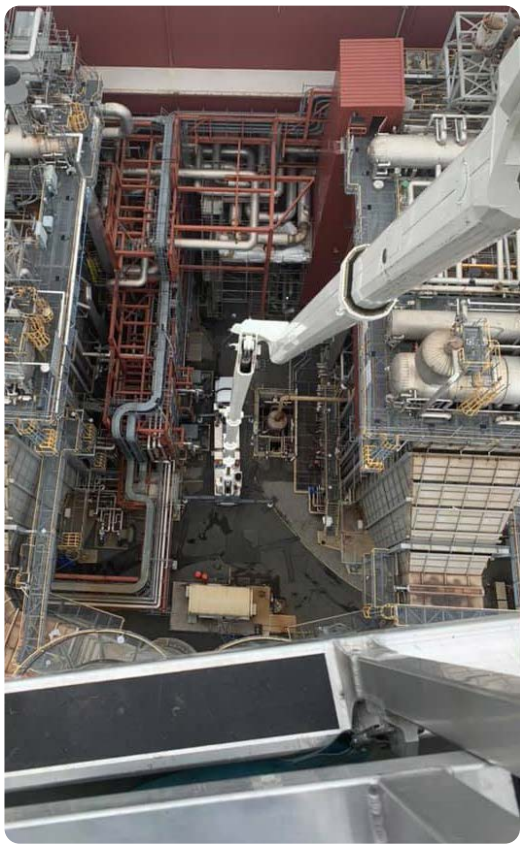
The working envelope of the A-250 enabled a reach of up to 250-feet high, around, and between the smokestacks. Alpha's cage swiveling capabilities of almost 360 degrees at the end of the 60-foot jib boom provided accessibility to every position on the structures.

The telescopic Palfinger boom lifts mounted on Kenworth chassis are custom-engineered to withstand constant 36-mph winds at maximum height and up to 50 mph gusts, making them a go-to height access method in windy areas. At 80% of its height, the boom can withstand much stronger winds and gusts.

Squeezing our 8-foot, 6-inch-wide, 45 foot-long truck into the narrow gate and parking space would be an impossibility were it not for our IPAF-certified and experienced lift operator. The gap to access the alley between the gate and the truck was merely one inch.

Space inside the plant was just as tight, prompting the operator to set up each outrigger individually. He set them carefully, just inches away and around all ground-based structures, maximizing lift stability and reach despite such a tiny driveway.





THE OUTCOME

During the 10-day project, our full-time operator lifted the workers to inspect, paint, and weld the metal structures. Our 12-foot cage seamlessly lifted up to 1,320 lbs., accommodating welding equipment, materials, and three to four people. In addition, the cage offered all the necessary outlets to enable welding and other jobs at height.

Despite gusty winds at over 200 feet, the client crew felt safe and steady due to the amazingly sturdy, wide, and robust boom holding the basket in its position.

The ability to work during windy weather helped the client's crew complete inspection and repairs on time and on budget.

Our precise German-made lifts have become the height access method of choice for those who try them, as they combine unmatched productivity, safety, and reach.

Our all-inclusive service significantly reduces the amount of effort and costs to our clients, helping them reach their objectives of savings and project acceleration.

ALPHA PLATFORMS
WE LIFT YOU ABOVE ALL